

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication in the Final Rejection that claims 19-21, 24-27 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged with appreciation. All of the claims have been amended to limit the claims to the subject matter which has been indicated as being allowable in order to put the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 15 and 20 have been amended. Claim 19 has been canceled. New claims 43-56 have been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 15-18, 20-30 and 42-56 will be pending in the present application.

More specifically, claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 19 therein to render claim 15 allowable on the basis of the indication of allowability of previous claim 19. Claims 16-18, 20-30 and 42 all depend from allowable claim 15 and thus are considered to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 15 is allowable.

New claim 43 corresponds to previous claim 24 that was also indicated as being allowable by the Examiner and thus includes all of the limitations of previous claims 15, 22 and 24 therein. New claims 44-55 all depend from allowable claim 43 and thus are considered to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 43 is allowable.

New claim 56 corresponds to previous claim 29 that was also indicated as being allowable by the Examiner and thus includes all of the limitations of previous claims 15, 22, 28 and 29 therein.

Claims 15 and 20 have been amended to correct a typographical error by replacing, "proximate" with "proximal." Basis for this amendment is found at page 14, lines 29-33 of the original specification which describe the claimed part for causing movement of the arms from the first position toward the second position as the, "wedge-shaped proximal side 48 of end part 47." The same correction has been made in the language of corresponding new independent claims 43 and 56 as well.

Independent claims 15, 43 and 56 have also been amended to clarify that the arms are connected to the head. Basis for this amendment is found, for example, in Figures 31-36.

Claims 15-30 and 42 were objected to on the basis of the limitation, "wherein the distal arms support at least a portion of said hollow structures." The Examiner's suggestion to amend this phrase to read, "wherein the distal arms are adapted to support at least a portion of said hollow structures" has been adopted in order to overcome this objection. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

U.S. Patent application no. 10/805,714

The applicant does not concede the correctness of the Examiner's positions rejections over U.S. Patent no. 5,387,235 (Chuter et al.), but instead has voluntarily chosen to limit the claims to the allowable subject matter for the sole purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application which has already taken more than five years from the filing date of the application.

Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested. Should the Examiner have minor issues with the application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the applicant to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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